

REPLACED BY  
ART 34 AMDT

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CLAIMS

1. A stainless steel member passivation treatment method characterized in that a passive film is formed at the surface of a stainless steel member by the stainless steel member being immersed in an alkaline solution of pH 9 to 12 at 40 to 60°C.

2. A stainless steel member passivation treatment method according to claim 1, characterized in that a pH buffer is added to the alkaline solution or the alkaline solution itself is provided with a pH buffer action, and by air bubbling into this alkaline solution being carried out the formation of hydroxides to constitute the passive film is promoted by an increase in the amount of oxygen dissolved in the alkaline solution, and by carbon dioxide dissolving in the alkaline solution falling of its pH is suppressed.

3. A stainless steel member passivation treatment method according to claim 1, characterized in that a stainless steel member having finished the immersion step is dried by being held at 100 to 200°C.

4. A stainless steel member passivation treatment method according to claim 3, characterized in that the stainless steel member is a separator for use in a fuel cell.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION  
OF THE ANNEXES TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT